

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: TORII, et al.
Filed: July 31, 2001
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING SAMPLES



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 31, 2001

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a List of documents cited in connection with at least prior application Serial No. 08/470,443, filed June 6, 1995.

Since prior application Serial No. 08/470,443 is being relied upon under 35 USC 120 in connection with the above-identified application, copies of the listed documents are not enclosed. See 37 CFR 1.98(d).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-identified application. Accordingly, clearly the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with all documents on the enclosed List. Accordingly, consideration of the listed documents, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

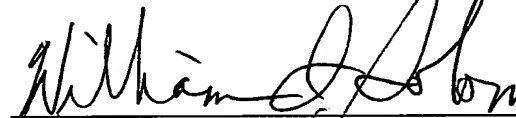
To be particularly noted are the following four (4) documents on the enclosed List, the U.S. patents to Moe, et

al., No. 4,722,355 and to Peterman, et al., No. 4,855,252; European Patent Application No. 247,603 to Nakamura; and Elliot, Integrated Circuit Fabrication Technology, (1982), pages 56-59, 256, 257, 266, 267 and 270-275. These four documents were relied upon by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in affirming rejection of claims in prior application Serial No. 08/470,443, in the Decision mailed May 31, 2001 in prior application Serial No. 08/470,443.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.28546CV9) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/slk
Enclosure